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LANL Recovery Act News Flash

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Keep On Truckin'

Waste haul at TA-21 hits its peak with completion scheduled for August

Hundreds of bins and 40 trucks logging 107,520 miles a week to six different destinations make hauling waste from the Technical Area 21 (TA-21) Recovery Act projects a bit of a logistical challenge.

"Excavating more than 33,000 cubic yards of soil from Material Disposal Area B and demolishing 24 buildings at Technical Area 21 means we've generated a lot of waste that has to be hauled out of Los Alamos," said Don Allen, waste manager for the TA-21 Recovery Act projects. "And when you figure that we have 40 trucks making at least two trips a week to six different facilities, that translates to a lot of bins, a lot of coordination and a lot of organization."

Coordinating the work of several different Lab organizations and the contractor adds to the organizational challenge, and the sheer volume of miles logged hauling the waste is staggering—more than 100,000 miles each week. Given that kind of mileage, the project's exemplary safety record is even more meaningful.

"When you think about that many trucks running that many miles, our safety record is a real testament to the care and professionalism of the drivers," Allen said.

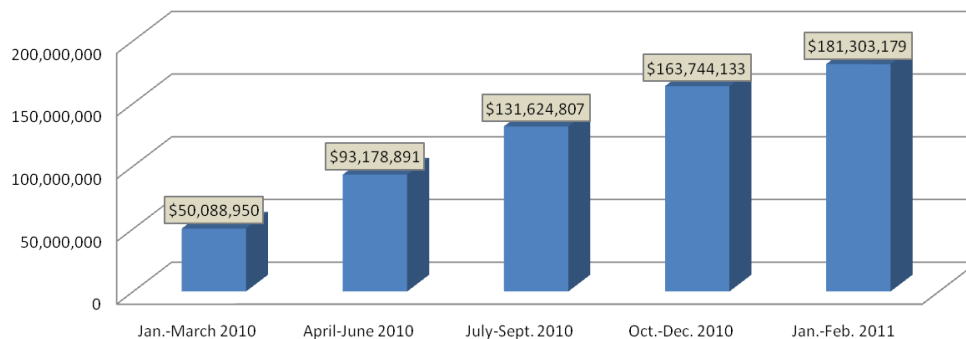


Waste from Material Disposal Area B is loaded into Super Sacks, an economical alternative to bins.

During the height of demolition, the activity at TA-21 was generating more waste than was being hauled, with as many as 1,000 waste bins onsite waiting to be shipped. Recently, however, the waste haul has hit its peak with more waste shipped than generated, which has reduced the onsite bin count to less than 800.

Despite the challenges, the waste haul at TA-21 is proceeding smoothly and will be completed in August.

**LANL Recovery Act spending
(running total)**





“The new position is a good thing and I am very thankful for it.”—Vanessa Borrego, whose work on a Recovery Act project resulted in a post-ARRA job offer

Recovery Act Creates New Opportunities

Some of the people and businesses hired to do temporary Recovery Act work at the Lab are discovering a long-term benefit: more work.

For Vanessa Borrego, for instance, a Recovery Act job turned out to be a long-term blessing.

A single mother from Chimayo, New Mexico, Vanessa joined the Recovery Act project at Technical Area 21 almost two years ago. As a nuclear hazardous technician in the TA-21 Operations Center, she’s supported the demolition of 24 buildings and the excavation of the lab’s oldest waste disposal site.

As the Lab’s Recovery Act work began to wind down, Vanessa started thinking about finding a job. “I was thinking I needed to find something,” she said. “I don’t like to be a last minute kind of person and knew I was going to need a job.”

Enter Chris Quartieri and the project management group at TA-46. Due to the things Vanessa learned and the reputation for hard work she earned, she was offered a position as a project coordinator at TA-46, which gives her and her nine-year-old daughter security for the future.

“I wasn’t even in Los Alamos two years ago,” she said. “The new position is a good thing and I am very thankful for it.”

Working on Recovery Act projects also resulted in additional work for a couple of small business subcontractors. Innovative Technical Solutions, Inc., (ITSI) and American Remediation Solutions and Environmental Corporation (ARSEC) were two of the four small business subcontractors

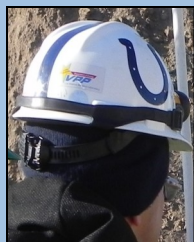


Mesa bonita....Waste bins waiting to be transported are the only items left at DP East, where 10 buildings used to stand. The buildings were demolished with funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

selected to compete for task orders under a Recovery Act master task order agreement at TA-21. ITSI and ARSEC were responsible for the decontamination and demolition work at TA-21. With demolition funded by the Recovery Act complete, both ITSI and ARSEC received contracts to demolish additional buildings at TA-21 with non-Recovery Act funding.

“The quality of the people and companies who have worked on the Lab’s TA-21 projects is evident by the results we’ve achieved in a short period of time,” said Gordon Dover, executive director of the Lab’s ARRA projects at TA-21. “We’re delighted that their experience here has resulted in additional opportunities.”

The height of construction fashion



Who said hard hats can’t be fashionable? From (left to right) an Indianapolis Colts fan to pride in the excavation of MDA-B, the “Big Dig,” to handmade art to patriotism, hard hats on the project are as individual as their owners without compromising safety.

This News Flash is provided by the Environmental Programs Directorate of Los Alamos National Laboratory.

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